

REMARKS

The Examiner stated that claims 1-3 are objected under 35 U.S.C. 112 first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. For example, it is unclear what is exactly the structural relationship between the electrical connector and the dust proof plate fixture.

Claim 2 is objected to because in line 2, the feature "holes are....the resin" is unclear.

Applicant traverses the Examiner's assertion concerning the referenced application being not in compliance with the enablement requirement. In the preamble, it is clearly shown that the dustproof plate is to be engaged with the electrical connector and the dustproof plate fixture is provided to facilitate the engagement therebetween. Any skilled person in the art would know the dustproof plate is provided to the electrical connector. Furthermore, because the fixture is formed on the dustproof plate and the preamble specifically stated that the fixture is adapted to engage with an electrical connector, relationship between the electrical connector and the dustproof plate is clear.

This relationship is also shown in the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment (page 4, lines 7-10), "With reference to Fig. 1, it is to be noted that the dustproof plate fixture for an electrical connector (the invention) has a cover (1) having a pair of opposite connection holes (11), a housing (2) attached to and engaged with the cover (1), and pins (3) supported by the housing (2) and extending out of the cover (1)." It should be noted that pins (3) are what an electrical connector will actually engage, i.e., as best seen in Fig. 2, these pins (3) provide the

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female portion of a connector for a male electrical connector plug designed to fit the holes (20) in the housing (2) and connect to the pins (3).

There is no such wording "holes are....the resin" found in claim 2. Applicant requests the Examiner to retract his/her objection. Further, the elements of claim 2, now cancelled, have been incorporated into claim 1 to more clearly point out and expressly claim the subject matter that the applicant considers the invention.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Lai et. al.* ('789) in view of *Puerner* ('320). The Examiner admitted that the '789 patent does not show that each of the retainers has a base plate with a through hole.

Nevertheless, the Examiner went on to state that in Fig. 1 of the '789 patent, the retainer is provided with a through hole such that it would be obvious for a skilled person in the art to modify the connector of the '789 patent so that the retainer has a base plate with a through hole. However, after a careful review of the '789 patent, applicant respectfully points out that the amended claim 1 now overcomes the Examiner's assumption in that the dustproof plate of the present invention after amendment has two positioning bosses formed on the rear side face of the dustproof plate and two positioning holes defined in the housing to secure engagement between the housing and the dustproof plate. Furthermore, it is noted from the drawings of the referenced application that the combination between the dustproof plate (4) and the retainer (5) of the referenced application depends on the bottom faces defining the two cutouts (41) defined in opposite sides of the dustproof plate (4). That is, each retainer (5) partially engages with the dustproof plate (4). To the contrary of the referenced application, the '789 patent retainer as an entirety engages with the dustproof plate via an extension (70) of the retainer (40) and retaining spaces (60,62) (as shown in Fig. 7). The engagement between the retainer and the dustproof plate

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of the referenced application is secured ONLY AFTER the pressing elements (6) are employed. Each pressing element of the referenced application has a pressing plate received in a corresponding one of the cutouts to engage with a corresponding one of the base plates of the retainers and a sleeve extending into one of the combining holes of the housing and one of the connection holes of the cover.

Still further, with the provision of the cutout (41), after the engagement of the base plate of the retainer (5) with the bottom face defining the cutout (41), the pressing plate (61) of the pressing element (6) is substantially flush with the dustproof plate (4) after the pressing plate (61) is pressed on the base plate of the retainer, as shown in Fig. 4 of the referenced application.

Further in view of the cited U.S. Pat. No. 5,340,320, it is noted that the cited '320 patent discloses two positioning holes defined in a side face of the housing and a pair of bosses formed on a rear side face of the dustproof plate to correspond to the two positioning holes so that the two bosses are able to be inserted into the two positioning holes to secure engagement between the dustproof plate and the housing. Therefore, it may be said that the two positioning holes and the bosses mechanism of the cited '320 patent can be applied to the design of the referenced application. However, it is not appropriate to compare element by element between the cited patent and the referenced application. The cited patent should be treated as a entirety and then the comparison thereto is appropriate. See *In re Mayne*, 41 USPQ 2d 1451, 1453 (Fed. Cir. 1997), *Panduit Corp. v. Dennison Mfg. Co.*, 1 USPQ 2d 1593, 1595-96 (Fed. Cir.), cert. denied, 481 U.S. 1052 (1987) and *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 488 (Fed. Cir. 1984)

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Therefore, the features, such as the recess defined in a rear side of the housing, the cutouts defined in two opposed sides of the dustproof plate of the referenced application are not disclosed or taught by the cited '320 patent, so that the referenced application is not anticipated by the cited '320 patent.

Still further, the cited 5,531,604 ('604) patent does not clearly disclose that the two retainers are directly pressed by the two pressing elements. Also, there are no cutouts defined in two opposite sides of the housing, let alone the two bosses and the two positioning holes.

Although the cited 5,249,974 patent clearly discloses that the two retainers are closely and directly pressed by the two pressing elements, there is no disclosure of the bosses, the positioning holes, the cutouts in the dustproof plate and the recess in the housing.

After amendment is made to the claims of the referenced application, it is noted that neither the '789 patent nor the '320 discloses that the dustproof plate fixture of the present invention has:

a recess adapted to be defined in a rear face of the housing;

a pair of positioning holes defined in the bottom face defining the recess and a pair of positioning bosses adapted to be formed on a rear face of the dustproof plate to correspond and extend into the positioning holes;

two supports oppositely formed on a bottom face defining the recess;

two cutouts adapted to be defined in opposite sides of a dustproof plate so as to form a first step and a second step;

a pair of retainers each having a base plate adapted to be adjacent to a side of the dustproof plate and a through hole defined through the base plate for alignment with one

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of two opposite combining holes in the housing and extension legs extending out from a bottom face of the base plate;

two pressing elements each having a pressing plate received in a corresponding one of the cutouts to engage with a corresponding one of the base plates, a sleeve extending out into a corresponding one of the through holes and extendable into one of the combining holes of the housing and one of the connection holes of the cover; and

two securing elements each adapted to be extending into a corresponding one of the connection holes of the cover and into one of the sleeves to threadingly engage with the corresponding sleeve such that engagement of the pressing elements, the retainers, the dustproof plate, the housing and the cover is secured.

As to claim 2, as discussed above, this claim has been cancelled an the elements disclosed, namely, a pair of positioning holes defined in the bottom face defining the recess and a pair of positioning bosses adapted to be formed on a rear face of the dustproof plate to correspond and extend into the positioning holes, have been incorporated in claim 1.

As to claim 3, as claim 3 has been amended to depend from claim 1, which should now be allowable, claim 3 should also be allowable.

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Based upon the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented, applicant asserts that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests a reconsideration and favorable action thereto be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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